

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W  
-----111114Z 003147 /12

P R 110945Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6510  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MILI  
SUBJECT: MILITARY CAPABILITIES TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT DURING STRIKES

1. SRI LANKA PRESS AND FOREIGN MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT CALL UP OF MILITARY RESERVES AND VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT IN HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS CAUSED BY STRIKES. MILITARY, HOWEVER, PROBABLY HAS ONLY LIMITED ASSISTANCE CAPABILITIES, MOSTLY IN MEETING SECURITY AND SOME TRANSPORTATION AND MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. WHILE MILITARY ASSISTANCE MAY BE ABLE TO PREVENT COMPLETE PARALYSIS OF ECONOMY, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP ALL ESSENTIAL SERVICES OPERATING IN THE WAKE OF WIDESPREAD AND PROLONGED STRIKES SHOULD SITUATION DETERIORATE TO THAT POINT.

2. SRI LANKA ARMY NORMALLY HAS 14,000 OFFICERS AND MEN ON ACTIVE DUTY, 9,000 REGULARS AND 5,000 RESERVES. IT HAS A MAN-POWER POOL OF 5,000 MORE VOLUNTEER RESERVES, 1,500 OF WHOM HAVE BEEN CALLED UP. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,000 REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SERVICE BUT ARE SUBJECT TO RECALL IF NECESSARY. FULL MOBILIZATION TO MAXIMUM 21,000 WOULD TAKE 30 DAYS. ARMY IS NOW GUARDING BUS DEPOTS, PATROLLING ROAD AND RAIL LINES, AND ESCORTING SUPPLY TRAINS. IT IS PREPARED, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS, TO TAKE OVER OPERATIONS OF PETROLEUM CORPORATION, ELECTRIC BOARD, TRANSPORTATION OF  
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FOOD AND PETROLEUM, AND STEVEDORING WORK IN HARBOR, IF NECESSARY. IF ARMY IS CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES, HOWEVER, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS SECURITY MISSIONS.

3. NAVY'S REGULAR STRENGTH IS 2,600. IT HAS A VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORCE OF 300, WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY. NORMALLY FULL MOBILIZATION TAKES 30 DAYS. ALTHOUGH CARGO HANDLING IN PORT HAS

NOT BEEN DISRUPTED, NAVY IS OPERATING TUGS IN HARBOR TO BERTH SHIPS.  
IT IS ALSO OPERATING AND PROVIDING SECURITY FOR COLOMBO WATER  
WORKS AND GUARDING BUS DEPOTS.

4. AIR FORCE REGULAR COMPLEMENT IS 2300. OF ITS VOLUNTEER  
RESERVE FORCE OF 900, 700 HAVE BEEN ACTIVATED. WE DO NOT HAVE  
AIR FORCE MOBILIZATION SCHEDULE, BUT ASSUME FULL MOBILIZATION  
WOULD TAKE 30 DAYS AS WITH OTHER SERVICES. AIR FORCE HAS NOT BEEN  
ASSIGNED STRIKE DUTIES, BUT IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN TRANSPORTING  
FOOD AND PETROLEUM, TO PROVIDE STEVEDORES IN HARBOR, AND TO  
GUARD ESSENTIAL SERVICES.  
REED

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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